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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Nixon et al. :
Application No. 09/735,499 : **DECISION ON PETITION**
Filed: December 14, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 3650-006US :

This is a decision on the petition, filed August 4, 2008, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 (no fee) requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application was held abandoned for failure to reply to the non-final Office action mailed November 16, 2007, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on July 10, 2008.

Petitioner asserts that the Office action dated November 16, 2007 was not received.

A review of the written record indicates no irregularity in the mailing of the Office action, and, in the absence of any irregularity, there is a strong presumption that the Office action was properly mailed to the practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Office action was not in fact received. In this regard, the showing required to establish the failure to receive the Office action must consist of the following:

1. a statement from practitioner stating that the Office action was not received by the practitioner;
2. a statement from the practitioner attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received; and
3. a copy of the docket record where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received must be attached to and referenced in the practitioner's statement.


See MPEP § 711.03(c) under subheading "Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment Based on Failure to Receive Office Action," and "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993).

The petition satisfies the above-stated requirements. Accordingly, the application was not abandoned in fact.

A petition fee is not required under 37 CFR 1.181 and none has been charged.

In view of the above, the Notice of Abandonment is hereby vacated and the holding of abandonment withdrawn.

This matter is being referred to the Technology Center technical support staff of Art Unit 2173 for re-mailing the Office action of November 16, 2007. The period for reply will run from the mailing date of the Office action.


Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions